

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6615

BILL NUMBER: HB 1041

DATE PREPARED: Nov 30, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: EMT Insurance.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a county, municipality, or township that uses an ambulance service department or association to purchase a policy of insurance to cover each volunteer emergency medical technician (EMT) who is a member of the department or association.

Effective Date: January 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill requires local units of government that use an ambulance service company to provide insurance coverage for volunteer EMTs. Current law already provides that volunteer firefighters and EMTs working in a volunteer capacity for a volunteer fire department or ambulance company are to be covered by the medical treatment and burial expense provisions of the Worker's Compensation Law and the Worker's Occupational Diseases Law.

The policy benefit requirements specified in the bill are similar to the required insurance coverage currently afforded volunteer firefighters. The insurance coverage required is:

- Total disability coverage - payments of \$250 per week for 260 weeks
- Medical expenses coverage - not to be less than \$75,000
- Death benefit of \$150,000
- Total and permanent disability coverage - payment of \$150,000
- Partial disability coverage - proportional rate of \$150,000

The minimum level of coverage required by the bill is estimated to cost between \$1,700 and \$2,200 per year per agency purchasing such group coverage. This estimate is based on the cost of similar coverage provided

volunteer firefighters. As a result, the actual cost of coverage for volunteer EMTs could potentially vary from the estimated range due to differences in risk and claims experience. In addition, many volunteer EMTs could be included in the blanket policies currently held by their respective towns or fire departments; or purchased by these entities in the future (note: most towns are currently not aware of this option). Thus, the total cost may be lower than estimated.

Currently, there are about 12,800 EMTs and 1,445 Advanced EMTs throughout the state. Approximately 6,400, are thought to be volunteers. The cost of the policy benefit requirements specified in the bill that may be over and above what is currently provided to EMTs is not known and depends on the circumstances in the specific ambulance service companies providing services to local units of governments.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties, Municipalities, and Townships.

Information Sources: Mike Garvey, State Emergency Management Agency, (317) 232-3983.
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